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PM attends S'pore's national day celebrations

SIGNIFICANT: Also marks 50 years of diplomatic relations, says envoy

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak yesterday joined other Asian leaders at Singapore's 50th National Day celebrations.

Najib, Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei, Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, Laos Prime Minister Thongsing Thammavong and New Zealand Prime Minister John Key were among the foreign dignitaries attending the parade at the invitation of Singapore President Tony Tan Keng Yam and Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong.

Also in the VIP list at the Padang grandstand were Thailand's Prime Minister General Prayut Chan-o-cha, Vietnam's Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung, People's Republic of China Vice-President Li Yuanchao and Indonesian Vice-President Muhammad Jusuf Kalla.

Najib was accompanied by his wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, and senior government officials. Also present was Sultan of Johor Sultan Ibrahim Sultan Iskandar.

Najib, during the Malaysia-Singapore 6th Leaders' Retreat here in May, had said the bilateral

relationship between both countries were at its best in history, thanks to the effort by both governments in placing priority on the people's interest.

A crowd of 150,000 celebrated the republic's 50th national day with a display of song, culture, history and an aerial show that had an Airbus A380 decked in Singaporean flag livery flying over the parade venue at the city centre here.

Meanwhile, Malaysian High Commissioner to Singapore, Datuk Husni Zai Yaacob, told Bernama that Malaysia aspired for a more fruitful and mutually beneficial partnership with Singapore. He said the celebration was not only about the republic's golden jubilee of independence, but also marked 50 years of diplomatic ties between both countries.

"This is a significant year for Malaysia and Singapore, as it marks the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

"We hope Malaysia and Singapore will continue to build on their strong foundation towards a more fruitful and mutually beneficial partnership, serving the best interest of both nations."